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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-10 /070 W
---------- 091196
R 100924Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8298
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KS
SUBJECT: REFERENDUM MINUS TWO DAYS

SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 8, FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN, KIM TAE-CHUNG, AND NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM ANNOUNCED GUIDELINES FOR BOYCOTT OF REFERENDUM. IN RESPONSE, ROKG PROSECUTOR GENERAL ON FEBRUARY 10 WARNED OPPOSITION FORCES NOT TO ORGANIZE ANY LARGE SCALE BOYCOTTING CAMPAIGN. ON SAME DAY, KIM YONG-SAM INAUGURATED HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST REFERENDUM. END SUMMARY.

1. OPPOSITION LEADERS KIM YONG-SAM, KIM TAE-CHUNG AND YUN PO-SUN ANNOUNCED ON SATURDAY AN ELEVEN POINT GUIDE FOR ACTION ON SUBJECT OF BOYCOTT OF FORTHCOMING REFERENDUM ON FEBRUARY 12. ESSENCE OF DECLARATION CALLED FOR:

A. CAMPAIGN ENLISTING SIGNATURES OF THOSE BOYCOTTING REFERENDUM;

B. ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO PRAY FOR SALVATION AND PEACE OF NATION;

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C. ALL JOURNALISTS TO REPORT NEWS OBJECTIVELY; AND

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D. VOTERS TO BOYCOTT POLLS ON REFERENDUM DAY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 10, ROKG PROSECUTOR GENERAL RATHER MILDLY NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF POLITICALMUONSIDERATIONS, NO REAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE YET ON THIS DECLARATION BUT WARNED THE THREE POLITICIANS NOT TO IMPLEMENT IT. AT SAME TIME, PRESS REPORTED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WILL BE INVITED TO BSERVE POLL PROCEDURES ON FEBRUARY 12. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FORMAL INVITATION TO THIS EFFECT.

3. SAMPLES OF REFERENDUM BALLOT WHICH WERE SEEN BY EMBASSY OFFICERS PASTED ON WALLS IN CHUNGJU (BUT WHICH HAVE NOT YET APPEARED IN SEOUL) GIVE QUESTION TO BE VOTED ON AS FOLLOWS: I APPROVE OF/OPPOSE THE MAIN POLICIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

4. KIM YONG-SAM ALSO ANNOUNCED HE WOULD INAUGURATE PERSONAL HUNGER STRIKE TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 10 AND END FOLLOWING CLOSING OF POLLS ON FEBRUARY 12 TO PROTEST REFERENDUM AND SHOW HIS "DETERMINATION". HE ALSO SAID NDP WOULD BEGIN COLLECTING SIGNATURES OF THOSE OPOSING REFERENDUM. KIM HAS ALREADY SIGNED. HE ALSO REITERATED HIS CONTENTION THAT REFERENDUM RESULTS WILL BE INVALID BECAUSE OF "ILLEGALITY OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION".

5. DURING RECENT WEEKS PRESS COVERAGE OF OPPOSITION ANTI-REFERENDUM ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL. STATEMENTS BY NDP AND NCRD LEADERS AS WELL AS CHURCH PROTEST/PRAYER MEETINGS HAVE BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE SPACE ON PAGE ONE OF MOST PAPERS. EVEN GOVERNMENT'S SEOUL SINMUN AND KOREA HERALD HAVE PROVIDED CONTINUING COVERAGE OF BASIC POINTS MADE BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS.
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